BIG COMICS SPECIAL

Pの悲劇

高橋留美子傑作集

高橋留美子

Takahashi Rumiko

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

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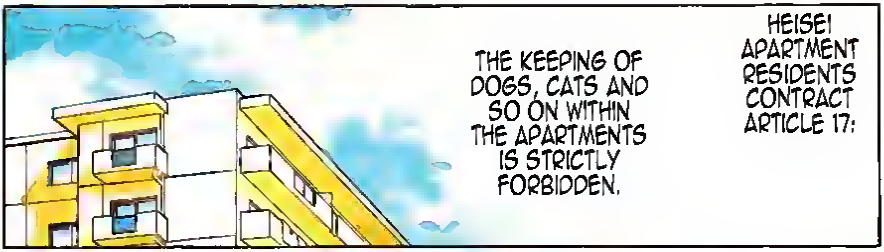
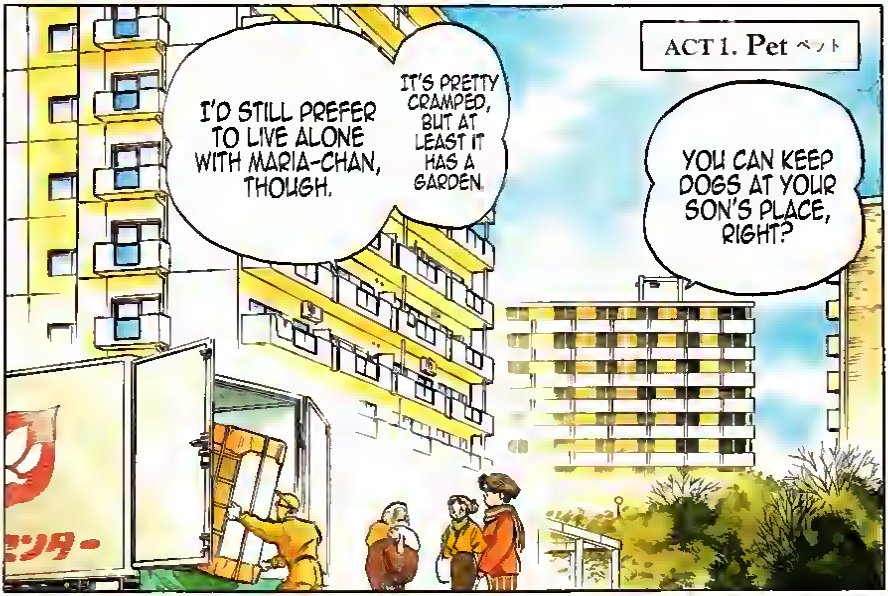
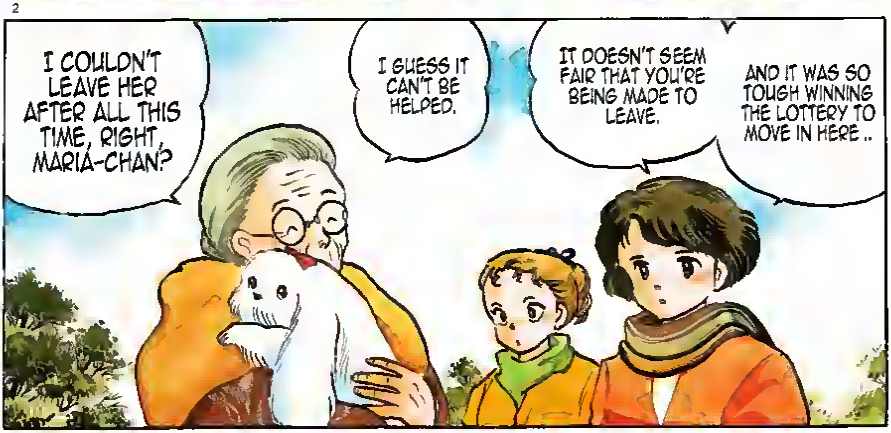
The Tragedy of

P

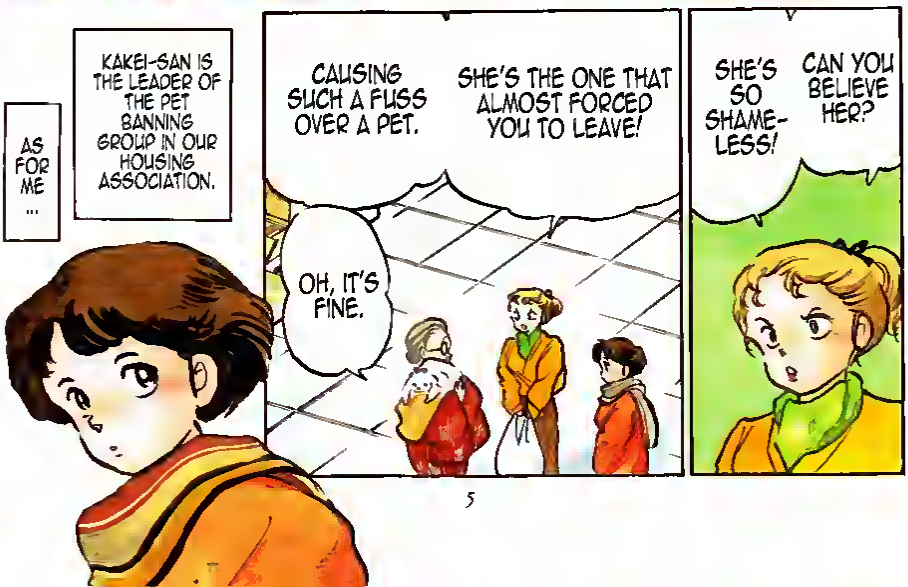

HEISEI APARTMENT RESIDENTS CONTRACT ARTICLE 17:
THE KEEPING OF DOGS, CATS AND SO ON WITHIN THE APARTMENTS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

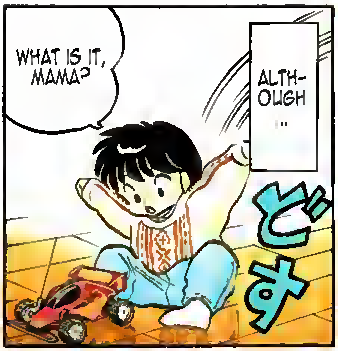

ACT 1. Pet ペット
I'D STILL PREFER TO LIVE ALONE WITH MARIA-CHAN, THOUGH.
IT'S PRETTY CRAMPED, BUT AT LEAST IT HAS A GARDEN.
YOU CAN KEEP DOGS AT YOUR SON'S PLACE, RIGHT?

2


I COULDN'T LEAVE HER AFTER ALL THIS TIME, RIGHT, MARIA-CHAN?
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR THAT YOU'RE BEING MADE TO LEAVE.
AND IT WAS SO TOUGH WINNING THE LOTTERY TO MOVE IN HERE..

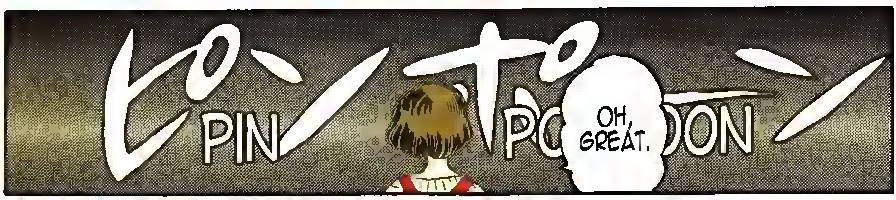
SAYONARA, MARIA-CHAN.
ALL THE BEST.
WELL, I'LL MISS YOU.
OH, SO YOU'RE LEAVING TODAY?
AH, KAKEI-SAN.
なでなで
さっさっさっ


AS FOR ME ...
KAKEI-SAN IS THE LEADER OF THE PET BANNING GROUP IN OUR HOUSING ASSOCIATION.
CAUSING SUCH A FUSS OVER A PET.
SHE'S THE ONE THAT ALMOST FORCED YOU TO LEAVE!
OH, IT'S FINE.
SHE'S SO SHAME-LESS!
CAN YOU BELIEVE HER?

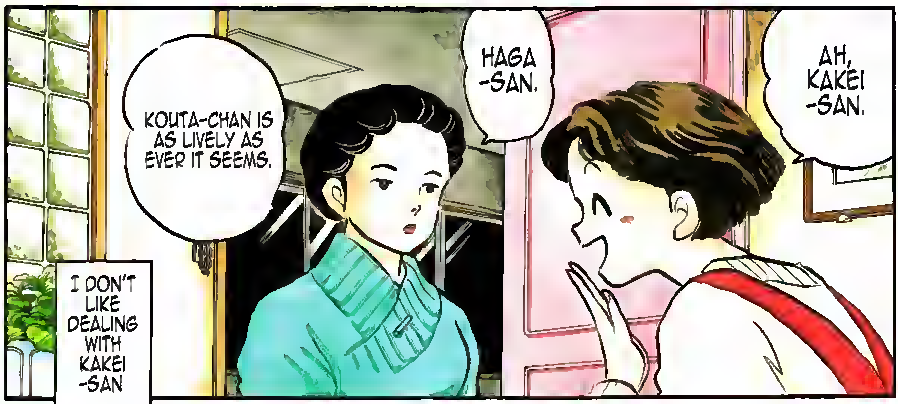

WHAT IS IT, MAMA?
ALTH-OUGH ..
どす

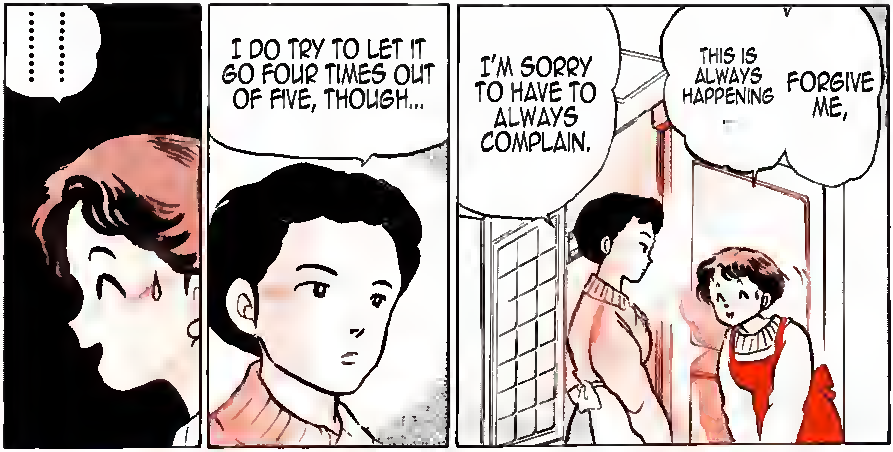
SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY PETS.
KOUTA!
I'M NOT REALLY ON EITHER SIDE,
どたたたた

YOU'LL MAKE THE PEOPLE DOWNSTAIRS ANGRY AGAIN..
STOP STOMPING AROUND THE PLACE!


ピンポーン
PIN
PO
ON
OH, GREAT.

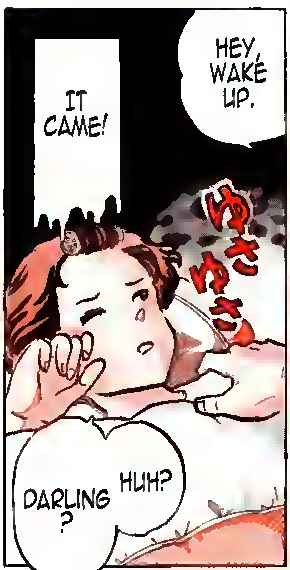
4

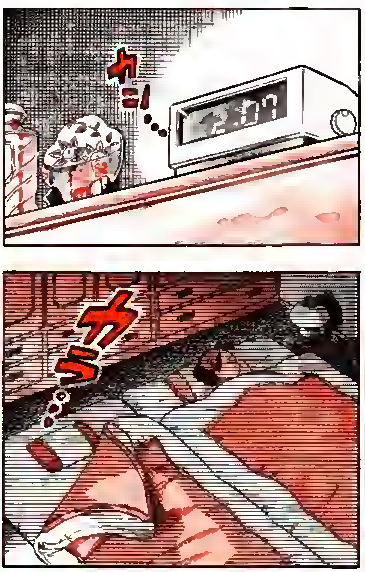

I DON'T LIKE DEALING WITH KAKEI -SAN
KOUTA-CHAN IS AS LIVELY AS EVER IT SEEMS.
HAGA -SAN.
AH, KAKEI -SAN.


I DO TRY TO LET IT GO FOUR TIMES OUT OF FIVE, THOUGH...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO ALWAYS COMPLAIN.
THIS IS ALWAYS HAPPENING
FORGIVE ME,

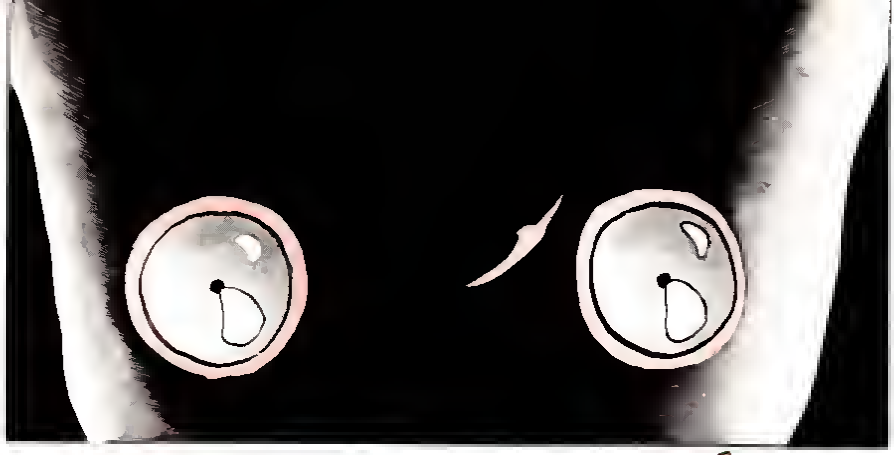
WE ALL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH EACH OTHER!
THERE'S NOT MUCH ROOM HERE
GRRR, TALKING TO ME LIKE THAT...

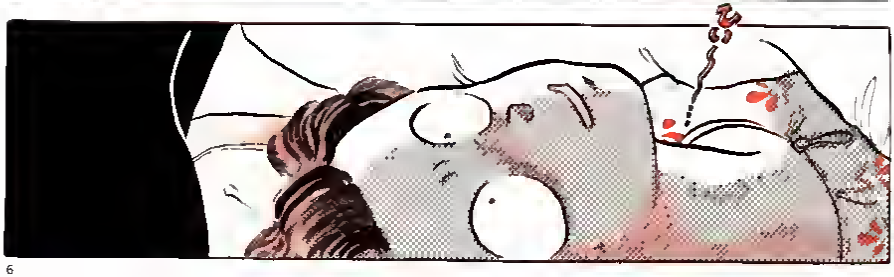
5

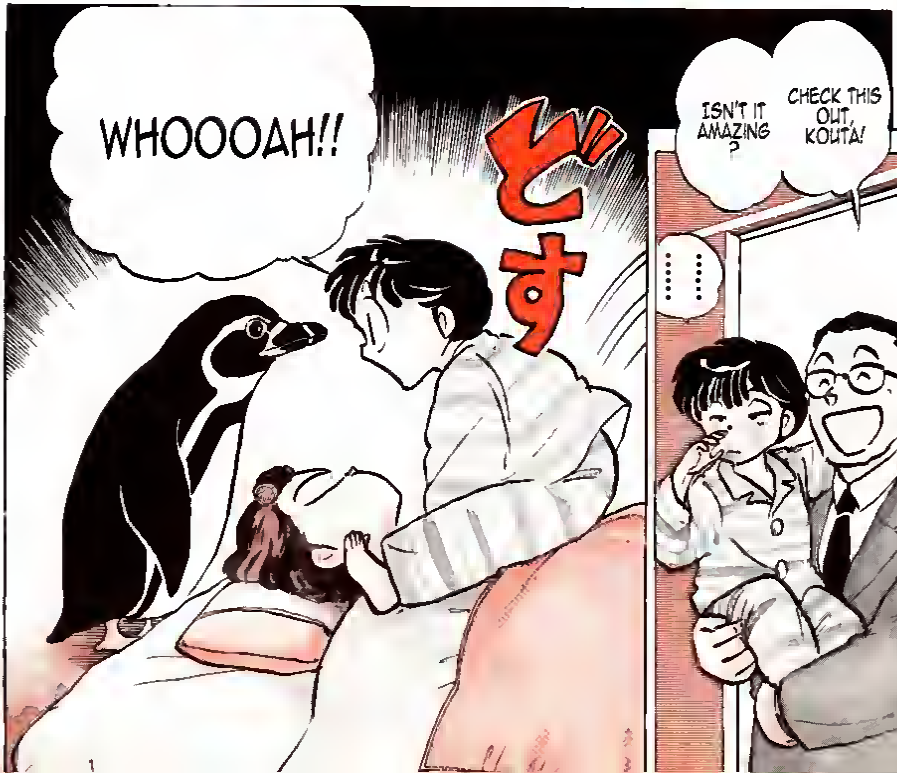

IT CAME!
HEY, WAKE UP.
ゆさゆさ
DARLING ?
HUH?

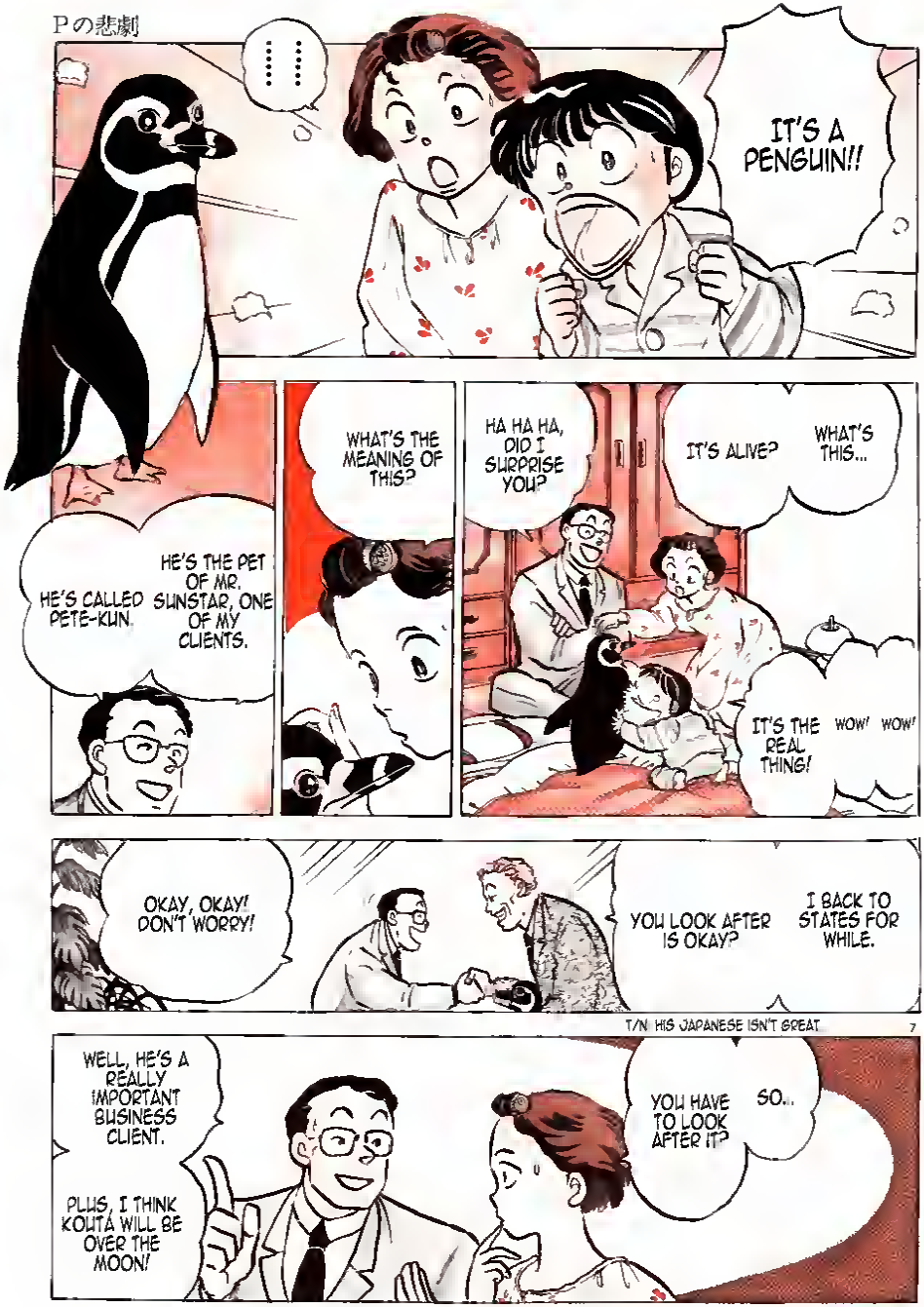

ケータイ
ケータイ

BUT LATER THAT NIGHT...





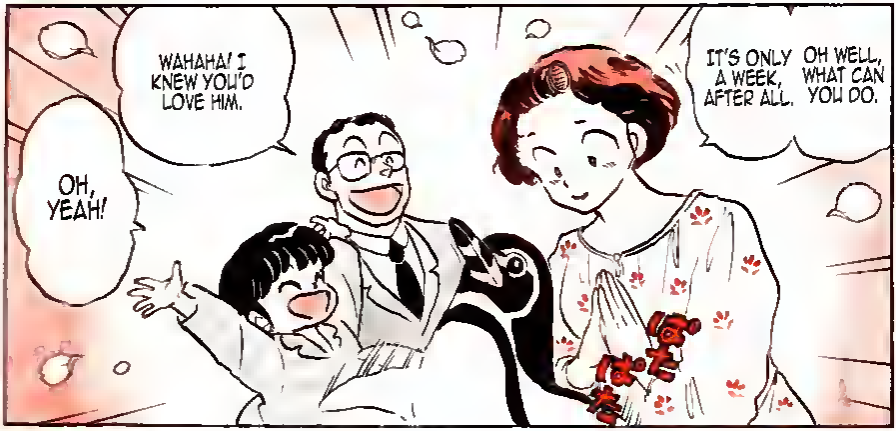

WHOOOAH!!
どす
ISN'T IT AMAZING?
CHECK THIS OUT, KOUTA!
……


IT'S A PENGUIN!!
……
WHAT'S THIS...
IT'S ALIVE?
HA HA HA, DID I SURPRISE YOU?
WOW! WOW!
IT'S THE REAL THING!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
HE'S THE PET OF MR. SUNSTAR, ONE OF MY CLIENTS.
HE'S CALLED PETE-KUN.
I BACK TO STATES FOR WHILE.
YOU LOOK AFTER IS OKAY?
OKAY, OKAY! DON'T WORRY!
SO...
YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER IT?
WELL, HE'S A REALLY IMPORTANT BUSINESS CLIENT.
PLUS, I THINK KOUTA WILL BE OVER THE MOON!

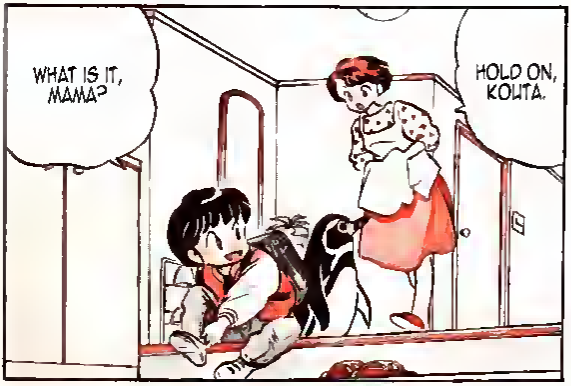
T/N: HIS JAPANESE ISN'T GREAT.

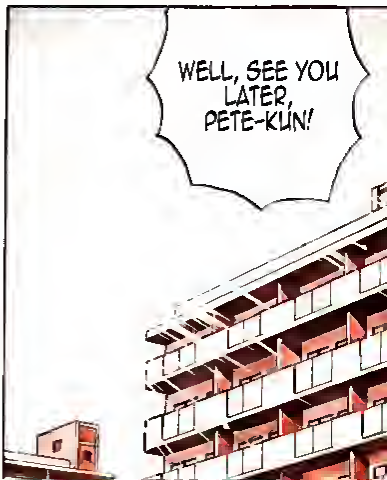
AND THE HOUSING ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN REALLY CRACKING DOWN ON OUR BUILDING...
WE CAN'T DO THIS! YOU KNOW PETS ARE FORBIDDEN...

EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
COME ON, JUST FOR ONE WEEK.

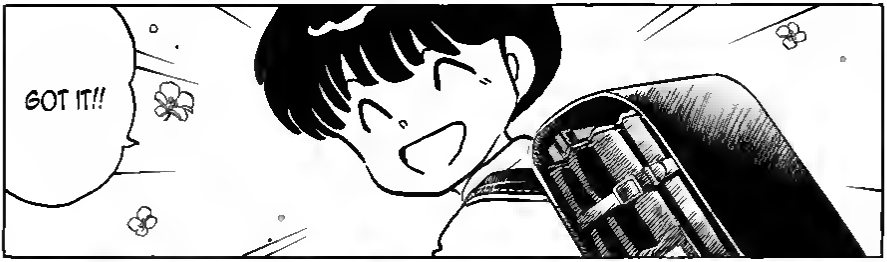

WAHAHA! I KNEW YOU'D LOVE HIM.
OH, YEAH!
IT'S ONLY A WEEK, AFTER ALL.
OH WELL, WHAT CAN YOU DO.

8


WHAT IS IT, MAMA?
HOLD ON, KOUTA.


WELL, SEE YOU LATER, PETE-KUN!

YOU SERIOUSLY CAN'T TELL ANYONE
THAT WE HAVE A PENGUIN INSIDE. OKAY?
PAY ATTEN-TION.


GOT IT!!

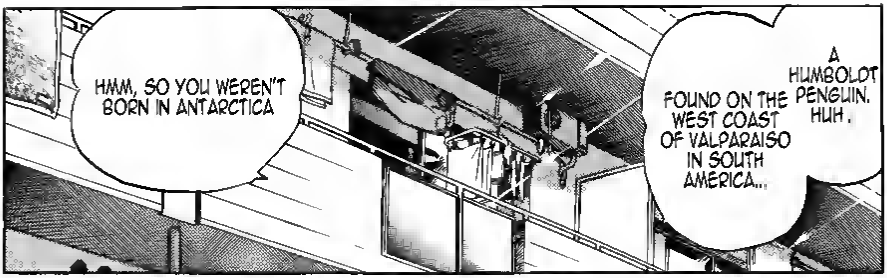
GACK.
IT SOUNDED LIKE YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELVES LAST NIGHT.

GOOD MORNING, HAGA-SAN.
AH, KAKEI -SAN...

9

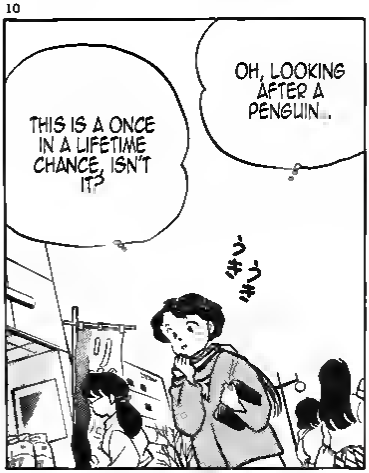
ドサ
TRASH

I GUESS WE WERE A LITTLE TOO NOISY
AH, SORRY ABOUT THAT.

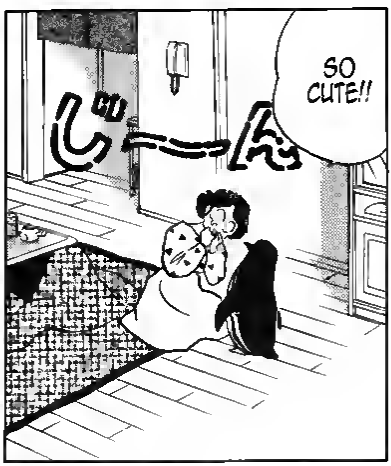

HMM, SO YOU WEREN'T BORN IN ANTARCTICA
A HUMBOLDT PENGUIN. HUH.
FOUND ON THE WEST COAST OF VALPARAISO IN SOUTH AMERICA...

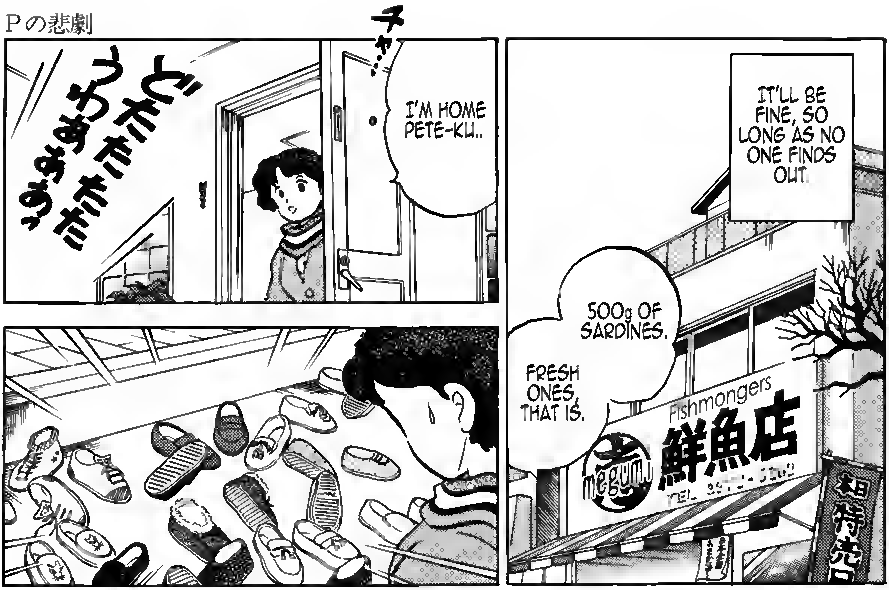
WELL, I HOPE WE CAN GET YOUR FEEDING COSTS REFUNDED
YOU EAT 0.5KG OF FRESH FISH EVERY DAY...

OH, YOU CAN STAND UP PRETTY WELL!
よちよち

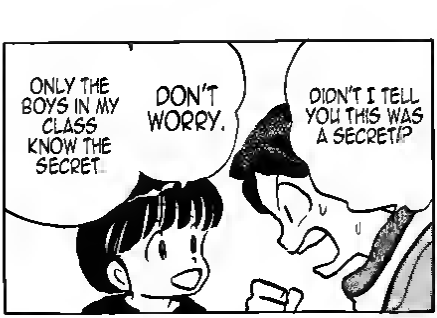

OH, LOOKING AFTER A PENGUIN.
THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME CHANCE, ISN'T IT?
うきうき

COME ON, JUST FOR ONE WEEK...


SO CUTE!!
じーーー


チャ…
I'M HOME PETE-KU..
ただいまぁ…
IT'LL BE FINE, SO LONG AS NO ONE FINDS OUT.
500g OF SARDINES.
FRESH ONES, THAT IS.
Fishmongers
鮮魚店
megumi
特売

DON'T BE TOO ROUGH WITH HIM!
IT'S THE REAL THING!!
COOOOL!
ばさっ
I WANNA TOUCH HIM TOO!!


ONLY THE BOYS IN MY CLASS KNOW THE SECRET.
DON'T WORRY.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THIS WAS A SECRET!?

OH, WELCOME HOME, MAMA!
KOUTAAAA!

THEY ALL KNOW??
THE BOYS IN HIS CLASS..

WAIT!!

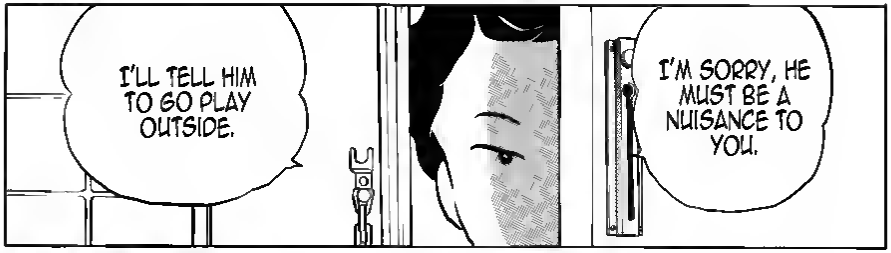
Koin pooon

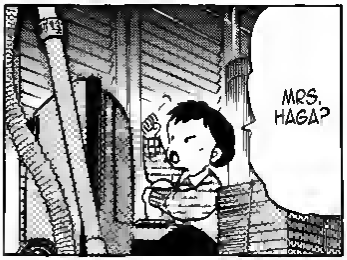
12

MY HIROSHI IS HERE, ISN'T HE?
AHHH, KAKEI-SAN.

DO YOU MEAN ME?
MRS. HAGA,

I DON'T SUPPOSE KAKEI HIROSHI IS HERE TOO?
UMM,

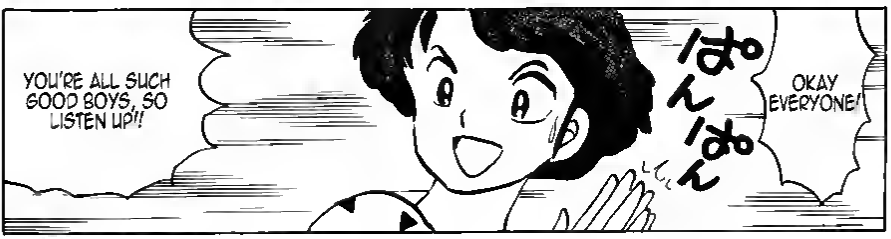

I'LL TELL HIM TO GO PLAY OUTSIDE.
I'M SORRY, HE MUST BE A NUISANCE TO YOU.


MRS. HAGA?

THAT'S ODD, I WAS SURE THAT HE. .
I'LL MAKE THE KIDS QUIET DOWN SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE!

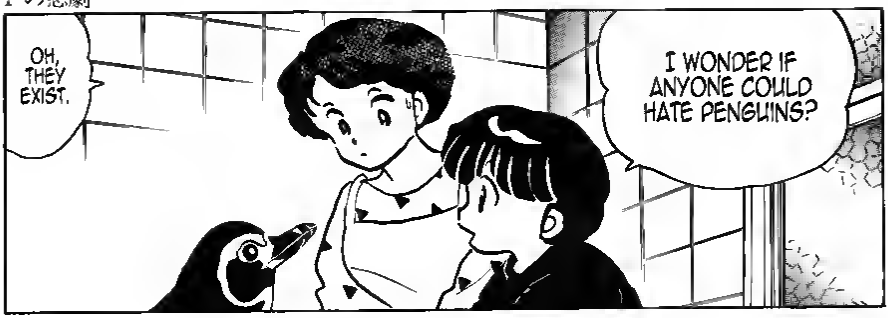
OH, IT'S REALLY NO TROUBLE...
ERM I MEAN HIROSHI-KUN ISN'T HERE.
ビクッ!!

HIROSHI -KUN. .

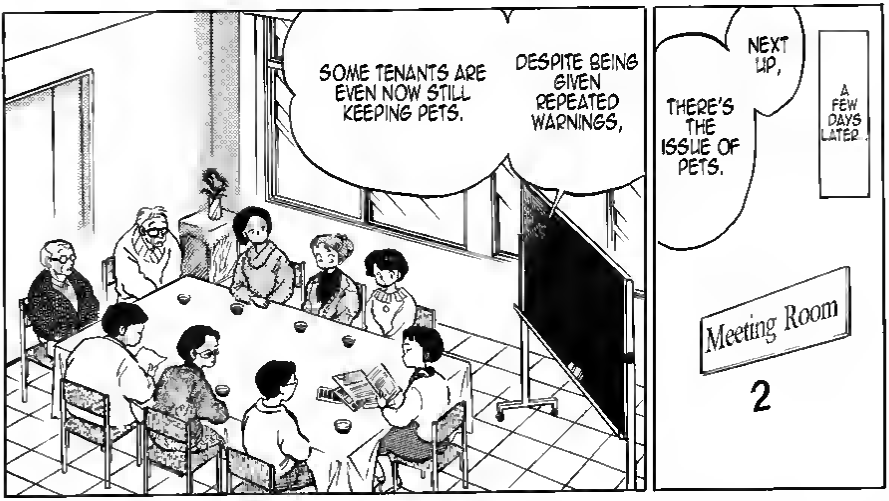

YOU'RE ALL SUCH GOOD BOYS, SO LISTEN UP!!
ぱんぱん
OKAY EVERYONE!

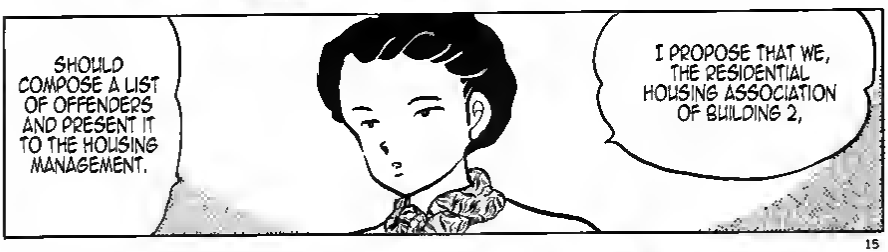
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY HERE ANYMORE.
IF YOU TELL ANYONE ABOUT PETE-KUN,
MAXIM

YOU'RE REALLY NOT SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPING A PENGUIN HERE.
UNDER-STAND, KAKEI-KUN?
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.
BUT I'M JUST LOOKING AFTER IT!!
YOU CAN'T SAY ANYTHING TO YOUR PARENTS.
SO THAT'S WHY WHEN YOU GO HOME,
GOT IT?
YES MA'AM.
ONE WEEK IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
HEY, MAMA, LET'S KEEP PETE-KUN HERE FOREVER.
BUT HE'S SO CUTE.. AWWW,
BESIDES, IF HE'S DISCOVERED, I'M THE ONE THAT'LL GET IN TROUBLE!
ぱしゃ
ぱしゃ
ぱしゃ
ぱしゃ



ACT 2. Public 公共


SOME TENANTS ARE EVEN NOW STILL KEEPING PETS.
DESPITE BEING GIVEN REPEATED WARNINGS,
NEXT UP, THERE'S THE ISSUE OF PETS.
A FEW DAYS LATER...
Meeting Room 2

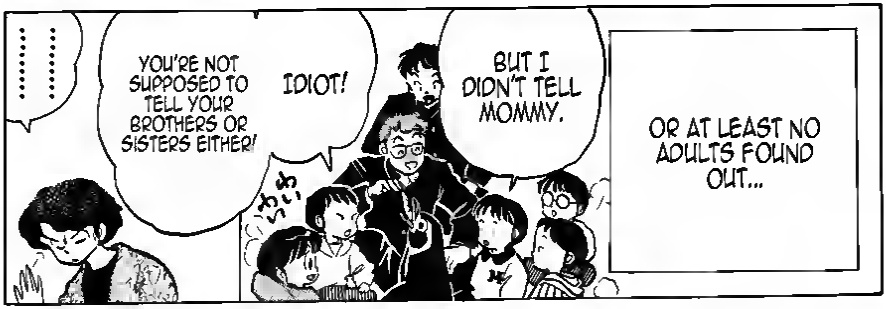

SHOULD COMPOSE A LIST OF OFFENDERS AND PRESENT IT TO THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT.
I PROPOSE THAT WE, THE RESIDENTIAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING 2,

15

HEY,
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
ビキッ
I'M JUST SAYING IF YOU LIVE HERE, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE RULES.
MAYBE SOME PEOPLE CAN'T HELP HAVING THEM.
UMM, WELL...
ビクッ
OH, BUT WE'D GET COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE SMELL AND THE NOISE..
I DON'T SUPPOSE JUST LOOKING AFTER A PET IS ALLOWED?
A FRIEND ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER HIS CAT JUST WHILE HE WAS AWAY ON HOLIDAY,
EXCUSE ME ...

IT'S CLEARLY SPECIFIED IN THE PAMPHLET THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT DISTRIBUTED.
OF COURSE IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION
THE OBLEM WITH PETS

AS FOR THE KIDS, THEY KEPT THEIR MOUTHS SHUT...
WHAT IF THEY TELL SOMEONE ABOUT THE PENGUIN?
ゴゴゴゴ
OH, ALL THOSE KIDS...

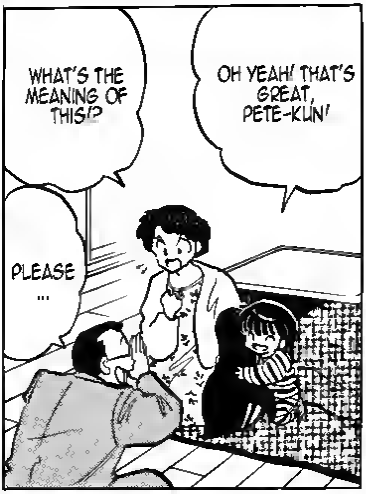

.....
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TELL YOUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS EITHER!
IDIOT!
いたい
BUT I DIDN'T TELL MOMMY.
OR AT LEAST NO ADULTS FOUND OUT...

HUH!?
JUST FOR A TINY BIT MORE!
I'M BEGGING YOU.
A WEEK PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT.

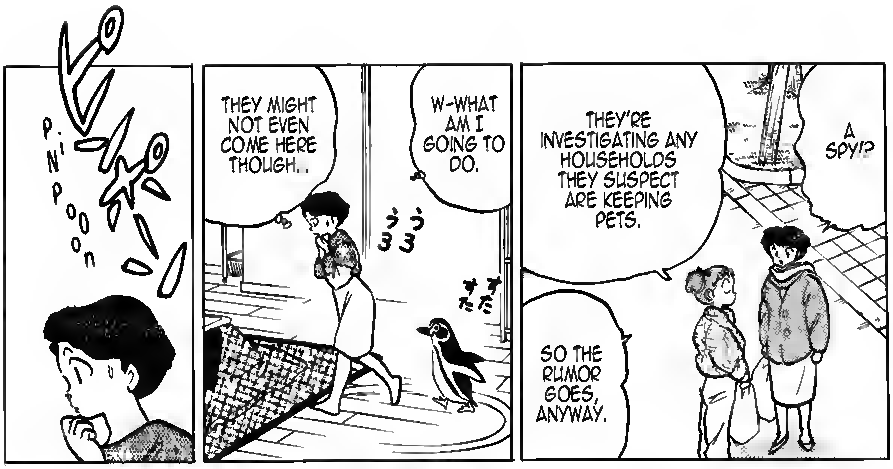
17

I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
HMPH.

THIS IS A REALLY IMPORTANT CLIENT'S PET..
YOU GOTTA UNDER-STAND.

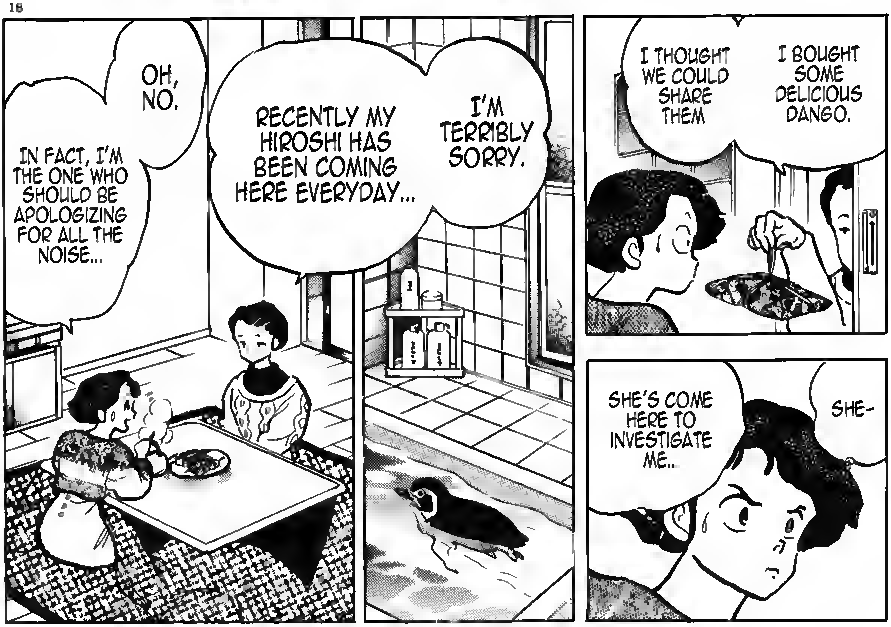

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
OH YEAH! THAT'S GREAT, PETE-KUN!
PLEASE ...

JUST A MINUTE, HAGA-SAN!


P. N' Poo on
THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN COME HERE THOUGH..
W-WHAT AM I GOING TO DO.
うう 33
すたた
THEY'RE INVESTIGATING ANY HOUSEHOLDS THEY SUSPECT ARE KEEPING PETS.
A SPY!?
SO THE RUMOR GOES, ANYWAY.

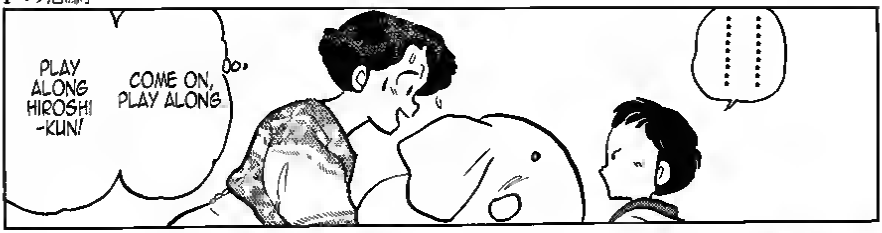
AAAAH, KAKEI-SAN!
HAGA-SAN, I WONDER IF I COULD HAVE A MOMENT.

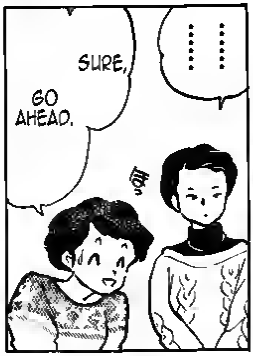
18

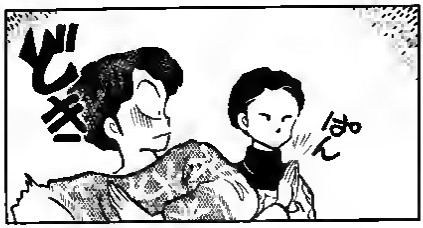

OH, NO.
IN FACT, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING FOR ALL THE NOISE...
RECENTLY MY HIROSHI HAS BEEN COMING HERE EVERYDAY...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.
I THOUGHT WE COULD SHARE THEM
I BOUGHT SOME DELICIOUS DANGO.
SHE'S COME HERE TO INVESTIGATE ME..
SHE-

スー
OH, J-JUST THE WASHING MACHINE ...
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
ゴトゴト
I-IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
.....
OH, R-REALLY?
ギュ
A KIND OF FISHY SMELL ..
THERE'S JUST, I DON'T KNOW...
NO ..
..IT MUST JUST BE MY IMAGINATION.
ムギュ
ムギュ

I'VE JUST GOT A SLIGHT HEADACHE..
I'M SORRY, DID THAT OFFEND YOU?
OH NO, IT'S JUST...
I'D BEST BE OFF.
WELL, IN THAT CASE,
WHERE'S PETE-KUN, MRS. HAGA!?
I'M HOME!!!
IT'S PETE-KUN~!!
HERE YOU GO, HIROSHI -KUN
WHO'S PETE -KUN, HIROSHI?
OH..., MOMMY.
PETE-KUN ...?

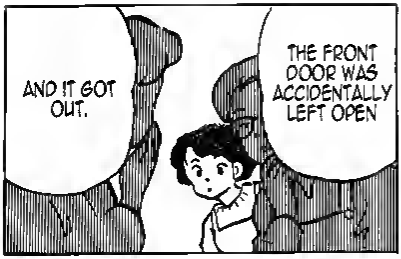


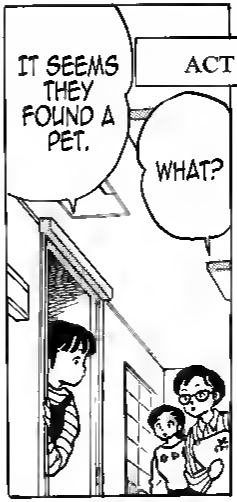


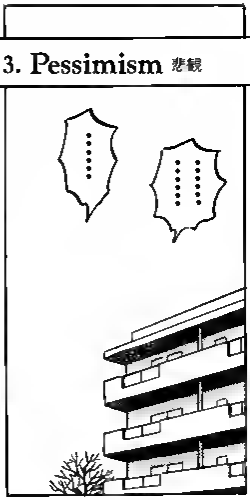


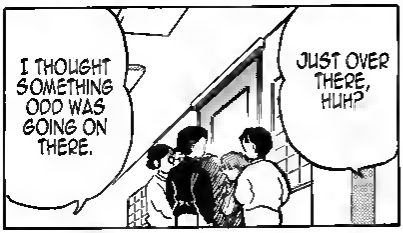
IF SHE FINDS HIM...

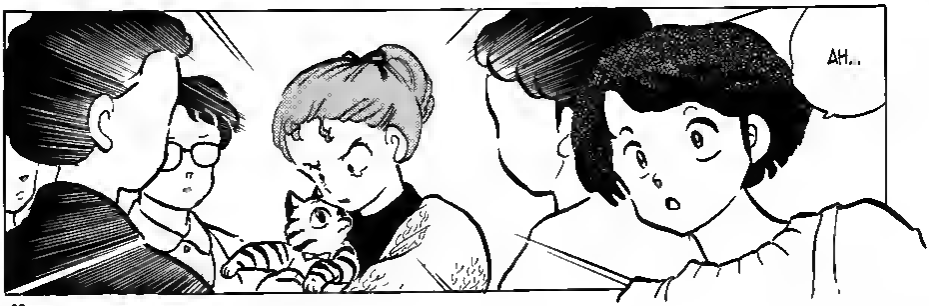
ACT 3. Pessimism 悲観











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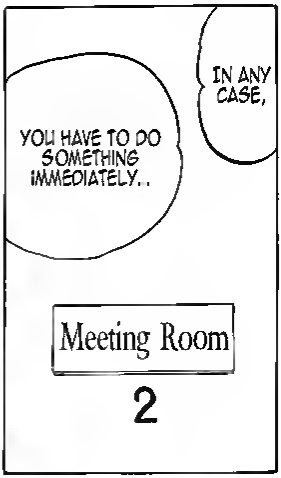
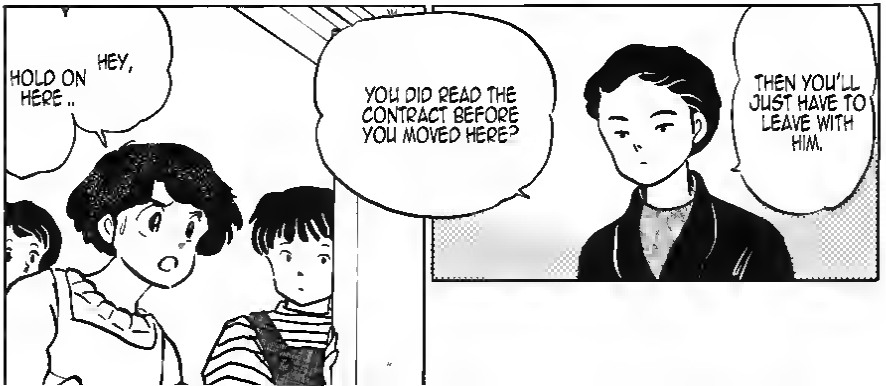
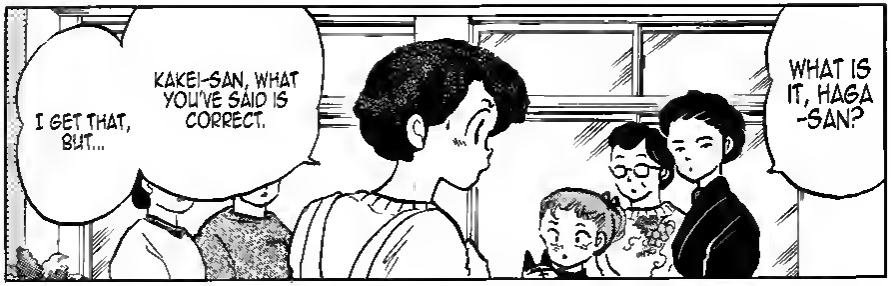


……
THEY'D PUT HIM DOWN!
NO ONE'S GOING TO TAKE A CAT THIS BIG!
THAT'S A LIE!
HE MIGHT GET ADOPTED.
IT'S YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY, AFTER ALL.
IN THAT CASE, SEARCH FOR A NEW OWNER YOURSELF.
YOU'RE SO HORRIBLE!
PUBLIC HOUSING IS NO PLACE FOR A..
IT'S NOT FAIR TO THE PET TO KEEP IT HIDDEN AWAY, EITHER.
HOW CAN YOU CALMLY SAY SUCH HEARTLESS THINGS!
MII IS LIKE FAMILY TO ME!

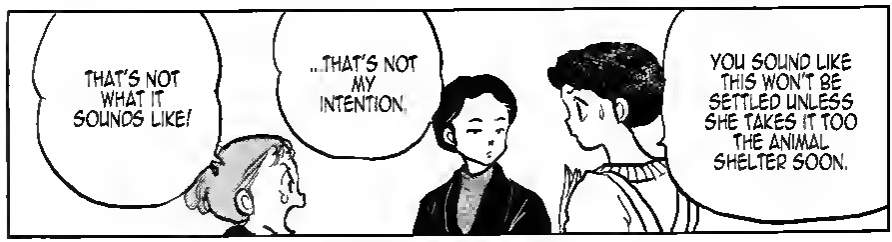

HEY,
HOLD ON HERE..
YOU DID READ THE CONTRACT BEFORE YOU MOVED HERE?
THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO LEAVE WITH HIM.


I GET THAT, BUT...
KAKEI-SAN, WHAT YOU'VE SAID IS CORRECT.
WHAT IS IT, HAGA-SAN?

SOME PETS REALLY JUST CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A LIVING THING HERE!
JUST BLAMING SOMEONE ISN'T HELPING...

IT'S NOT LIKE PETS WERE SUDDENLY BANNED JUST TODAY.
I KNOW THAT, BUT EVEN SO.

ISN'T IT JUST TOO MUCH..?
BEING SUCH A STICKLER TO THE RULES..


THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE!
..THAT'S NOT MY INTENTION.
YOU SOUND LIKE THIS WON'T BE SETTLED UNLESS SHE TAKES IT TOO THE ANIMAL SHELTER SOON.

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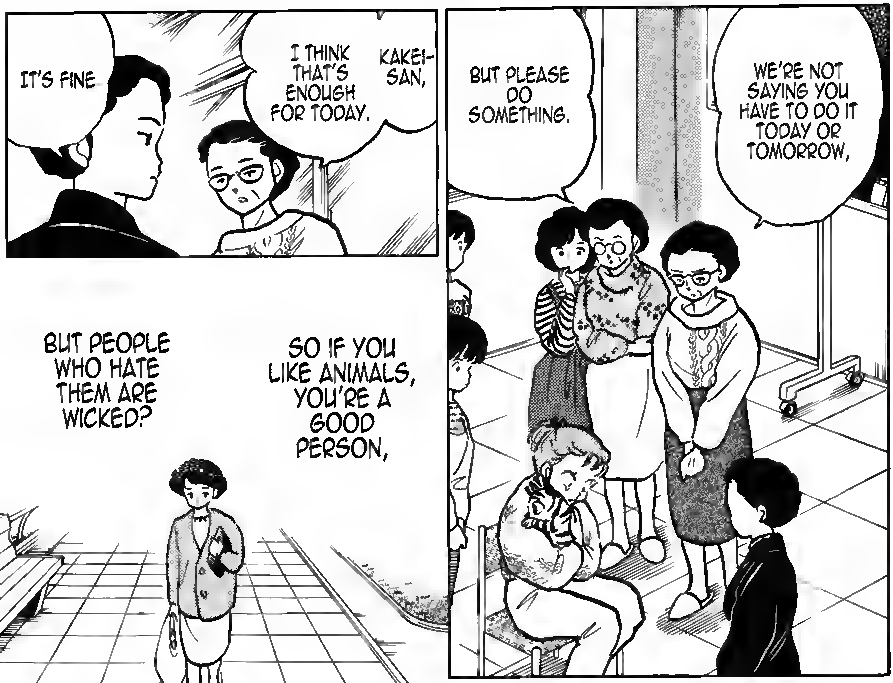
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS...
JUST BECAUSE YOU HATE ANIMALS..
WHAT IS THIS?

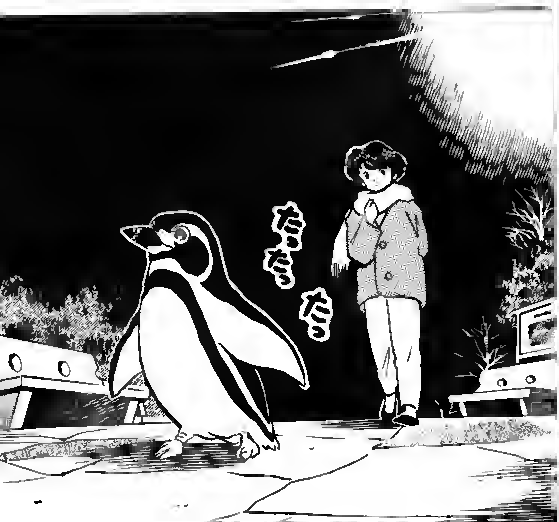
SO IF YOU LIKE ANIMALS, YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON,
BUT PEOPLE WHO HATE THEM ARE WICKED?
.....
IT DEFINITELY CAUSES DIFFICULTIES FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS.
WELL, MOVING ON..


IT'S FINE
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
KAKEI-SAN,
BUT PLEASE DO SOMETHING.
WE'RE NOT SAYING YOU HAVE TO DO IT TODAY OR TOMORROW,
BUT PEOPLE WHO HATE THEM ARE WICKED?
SO IF YOU LIKE ANIMALS, YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON,

HEY, HIROSHI-KUN, ABOUT YOUR MOTHER...
OH..
HELLO, MRS HAGA!
MAMA.
HUH?
WHY DOES SHE HATE ANIMALS SO MUCH?
26
WE USED TO HAVE A DOG BEFORE WE MOVED HERE
SHE LOVES THEM
KAKEI -SAN...
SHE CRIED THE MOST WHEN IT WAS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE.
SINCE YOU CAN'T KEEP PETS HERE, SHE SEARCHED REALLY HARD TO FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE THE DOG.
EH..?

EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW IT HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.

SO FOR A STROLL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SHE COULDN'T ALLOW IT.
STUCK IN A TINY ROOM, UNABLE TO RUN AROUND OR MAKE A SOUND.
THESE HUMAN RULES WOULD STEAL ITS FREEDOM.

THEY'RE NOT SOMETHING FOR US TO GIVE OR WITHHOLD

THE SKY... THE STARS... THE WIND AND SUNLIGHT... THESE THINGS BELONG TO YOU GUYS.

OI.
UGH!
HE MUST HAVE FELT SO GOOD THAT NATURE TOOK COURSE.
OH, DARLING
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE?
...I GUESS SO.
LIKE GOING FOR A STROLL.
I JUST KINDA FELT...
I GUESS YOU'LL BE RELIEVED.
TOMO-RROW ...?
YUP, HE'LL COME TO PICK HIM UP.

AND SO PETE-KUN LEFT WITHOUT INCID-

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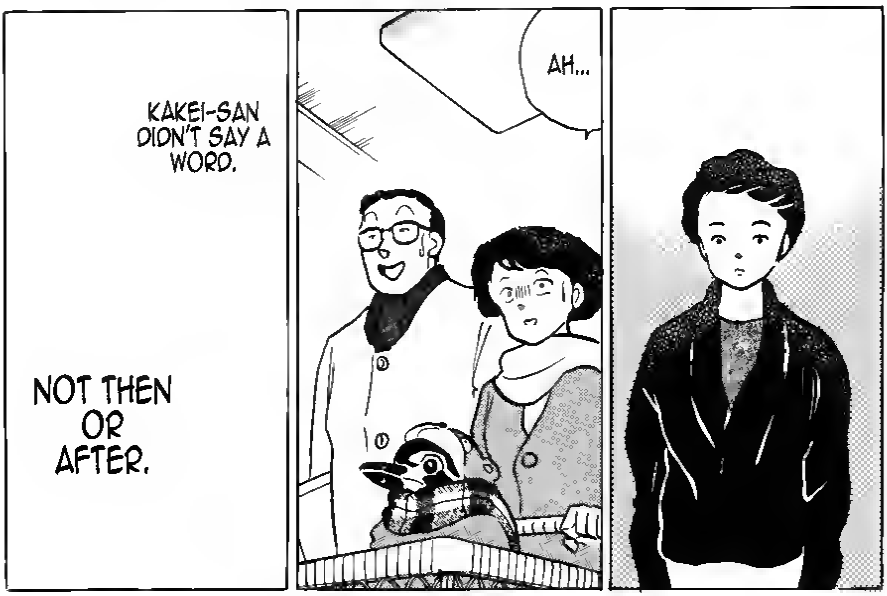
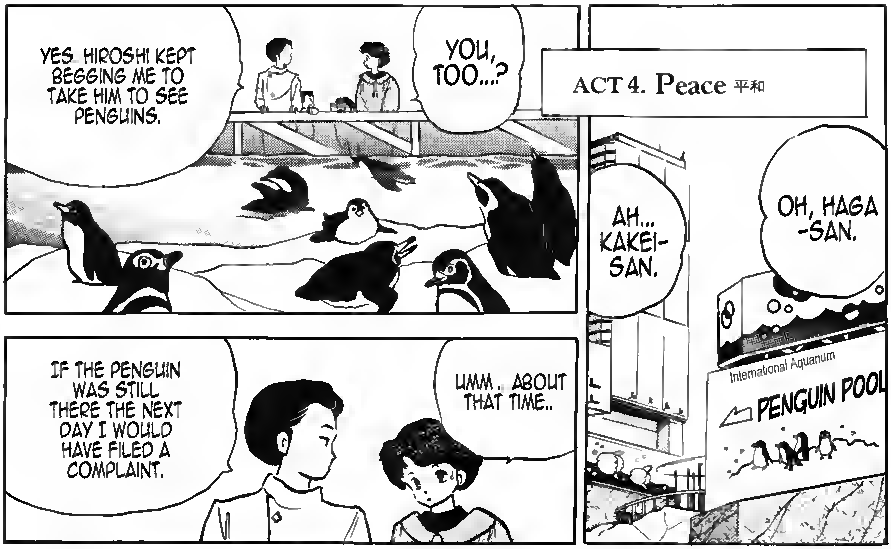

KAKEI-SAN DIDN'T SAY A WORD.
NOT THEN OR AFTER.
AH...


YES. HIROSHI KEPT BEGGING ME TO TAKE HIM TO SEE PENGUINS.
YOU, TOO...?
ACT 4. Peace 平和
AH... KAKEI-SAN.
OH, HAGA-SAN.
International Aquarium
PENGUIN POOL
IF THE PENGUIN WAS STILL THERE THE NEXT DAY I WOULD HAVE FILED A COMPLAINT.
UMM. ABOUT THAT TIME..

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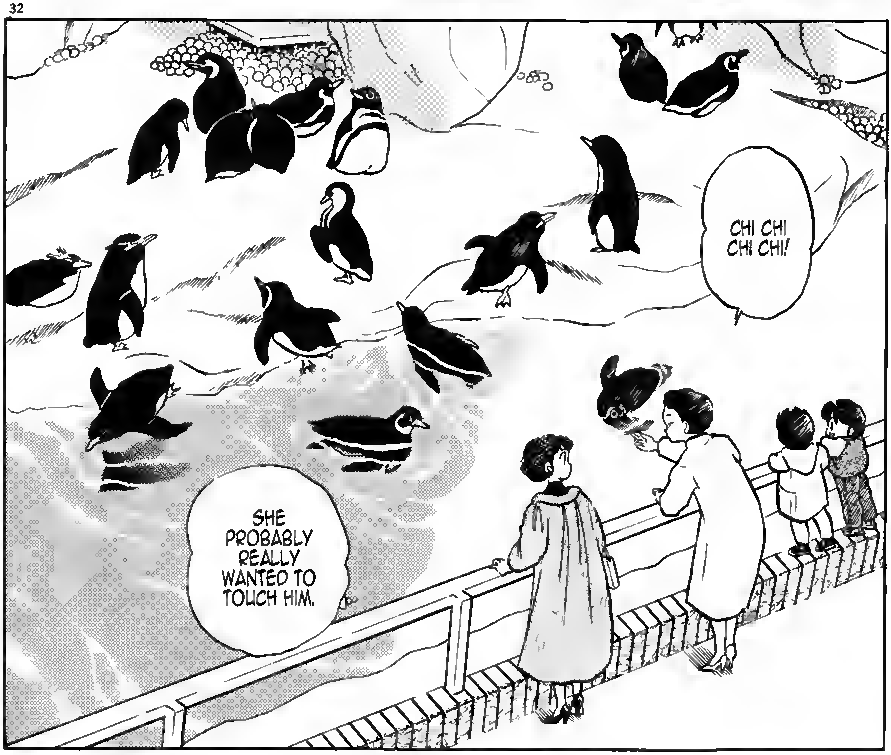
CHI CHI CHI CHI!
SHE PROBABLY REALLY WANTED TO TOUCH HIM.

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